

# Badlands Bombing Range Newsletter

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Omaha District

November 2003

The Badlands Bombing Range Newsletter is produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District to present current information about environmental cleanup programs underway at the former Badlands Bombing Range (BBR). Many state, federal, and tribal agencies are involved in the project including the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) and its BBR Project Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Air Force, and the National Park Service.

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## SUMMER 2003 FIELD WORK COMPLETED

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wrapped up the Phase IV field work this September with help from the Badlands Bombing Range Project Office (BBRPO). Phase IV work included geophysical and intrusive investigation of Sectors 10 and 11, an airborne investigation of Sector 10, visual reconnaissance surveys of sectors 12 through 28, and geophysical investigations of select homesteads. Following is a brief summary of the activities.

### Geophysical and Intrusive Investigations at Sectors 10 and 11

USACE surveyed 95 acres in Sector 10 and 207 acres in Sector 11. Using different types of magnetometers, over 1,500 anomalies were detected and intrusively investigated in Sector 10. Of those anomalies, 2 unexploded ordnance (UXO) items were identified and removed from the area. In Sector 11, about 3,000 anomalies were detected and intrusively investigated, of which ten UXO items were identified and destroyed.

### Airborne Investigation of Sector 10

The Naval Research Lab (NRL) returned to the former bombing range this summer to assist in the airborne investigation of Sector 10. Using a helicopter equipped with a magnetometer, 100 acres were surveyed. Of the 150 anomalies identified, 95 were selected for intrusive investigation. Only one UXO item was identified and destroyed.

### Visual Reconnaissance of Sectors 12 through 28

The Badlands Bombing Range Project Office performed visual reconnaissance surveys along the major roadways and sector boundaries in Sectors 12 through 28. The contractor used this information to find his way to some of these remote locations.

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## Partners in Progress

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Oglala Sioux Tribe • National Park Service • U.S. Air Force



*Picture 1: Handheld magnetometers help workers to identify anomalies during investigations.*

*(continued from page 1)*

### Geophysical Investigation of Homesteads

USACE investigated 12 homes using handheld magnetometers (see picture above). Almost 350 anomalies were identified, but only one ordnance-related item was identified and destroyed. The majority of the other anomalies were scrap metal.

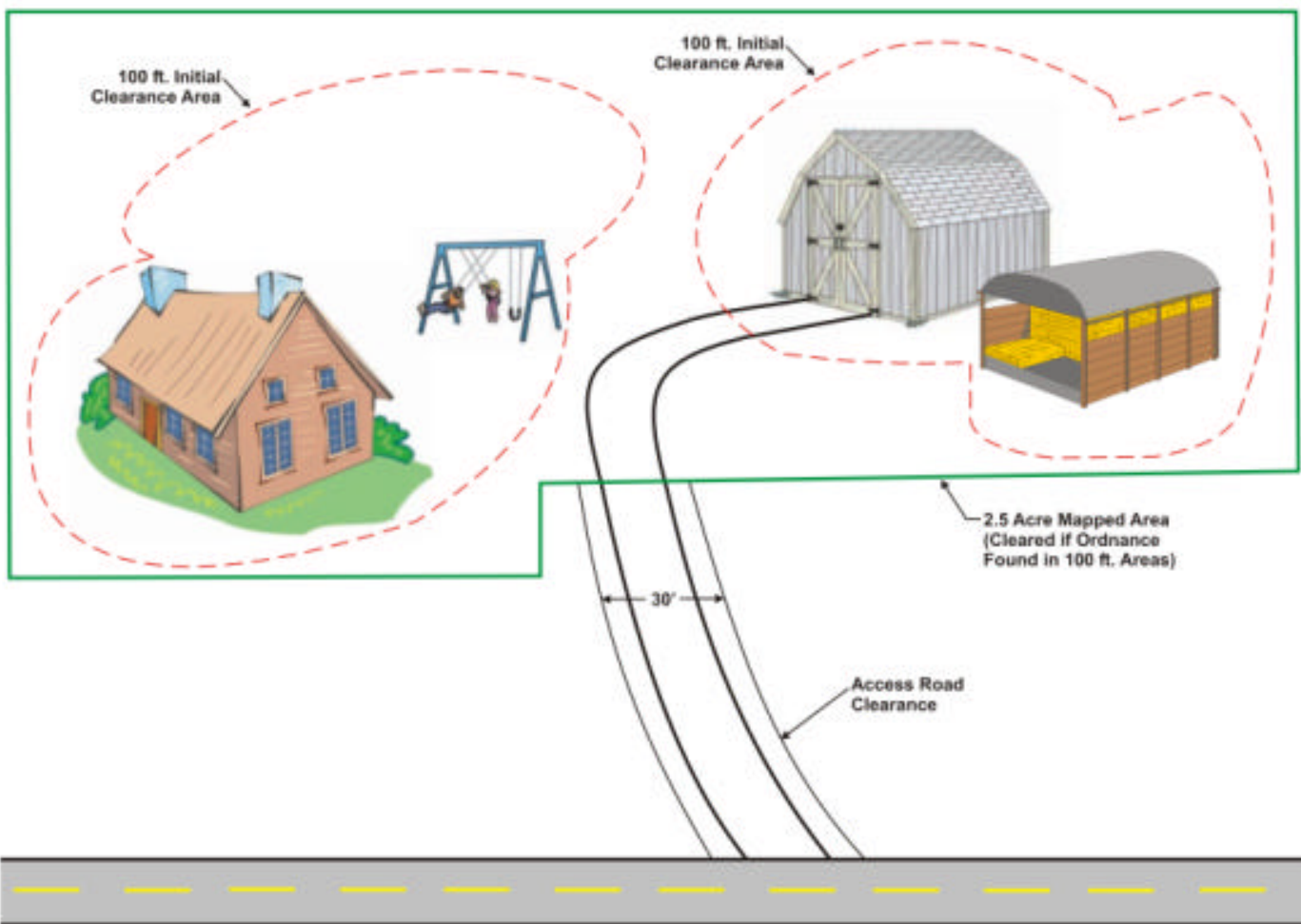
## **Bomb Target Investigated**

In order to determine the presence or absence of ordnance and explosive (OE) related soil contaminants, USACE and its contractor will perform a site investigation risk screening in the fall/winter at XU Hill High Explosive Bomb Target Area. A minimum of 20 surface soil samples will be taken from areas where high concentrations of OE items were found during previous investigations. Sample locations were selected by drawing a circle 3,500 feet in radius around the target and sampling grids where ordnance fragments were previously found. The soil samples will be collected by hand and sent to a laboratory to be analyzed for a full suite of OE-related contaminants. The results of the investigation should be available for review in time for the next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting and at the information repositories listed on page 4.

# What's Next?

Next summer's field work activities are already being planned. Work to implement Action Memorandum #2, the second highest priority response action, will begin. This entails clearance of 44 existing homesteads and 36 miles of associated roads. The clearance activities around the homesteads include a surface sweep of the area, a survey of the area using handheld instrumentation, and intrusive investigation of all anomalies within 100 feet of the primary structure. To clear the roads USACE must first mark the project area, which will include fifteen feet on both sides of the road, or thirty feet total across the road. USACE will conduct surface sweeps, a survey with handheld instruments, and intrusively investigate all anomalies found within the project area.

## DIAGRAM OF CLEARANCE PROCESS



## GENERAL PROJECT STATUS

Phase I	The final version of the EE/CA report was issued in May 2003. The report is available for review at the information repositories.
Phase II	The final version of the EE/CA report was issued in April 2003. The report is available for review at the information repositories.
Phase III	The final version of the EE/CA report was issued in May 2003. The report is available for review at the information repositories.
Phase IV	The field work was completed this September as described in this newsletter. A draft EE/CA report has been issued for internal review.
Action Memorandums	Action Memorandums numbers 1,2,5 and 6 have been signed. Work Plans for Action Memorandum 2 are currently underway. Field activities under Action Memorandum 2 will begin in 2004.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BBR PROJECT?

**Attend the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting in March 2004 at the Porcupine School!**

Please contact the BBR Project Office at (605) 867-1271 for more details as the date approaches.

**You can also visit one of the BBR Project Document Repositories:**

*Badlands Bombing Range Project Office* in Pine Ridge, South Dakota

*Oglala Lakota College* in Kyle, South Dakota

*Rapid City Public Library* in Rapid City, South Dakota

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